

You will be assessed on your ability to:

Write on the experience/role/rights of women in the Middle East and in the US (due **Monday, 3/19**)

Verbally express your opinions on the issues in interview form (w/ Mr. Porcelli **date TBD, likely 3/20**)

Essay: You will write a three paragraph essay, each paragraph being 7-15 sentences. I'd like you to choose from one of the three topics below, or write your own topic and have it approved before you begin writing. You must include textual evidence from the book in your essay, regardless of the topic.

Topics

—> In the first text, the speaker explains that women have always played an important role in society because they have played essential roles in religious history in the Middle East in each of the three major religions of the Middle East. She sites three main figures of the monotheistic traditions: Aisha, Sarah, and Mary. As a result, because of women's importance in religion, women also play 'an essential role in this society.' The speaker does also claim that women are free to choose their place in society and in the home. How do these two claims fit together? Think about the historical religious role of women in Arab society, and its connection to freedom of choice in society. What is the connection between religion and freedom of choice in society?

—> In the second text, the speaker compares the women's movements in the West and in the Middle East. She claims that women's movements in the West, while obviously meaning well, 'don't understand the content and different experience, the experience of women's movements in the East and how the roles of women in the East and West differ.' What is the root of this misunderstanding, according to you? Why do women's movements in the West misunderstand and 'look upon women's movements in the East with pity'? Based on the speaker's analysis of women's movements in the West, how do you think women's movements in the East view women's movements in the West?

—> In the third text, the speaker is critical of the traditional role of women in the East, and calls them the 'maid of the man.' While she is being hyperbolic with this claim, the speaker is politically motivated and explains that there ought to be more room and space for women to expand their influence in politics, government, and economics in the Middle East. Use her thoughts to analyze our current state of affairs in the US or the West in general. What problems face women in the Middle East and in America? How can women increase their roles in society? How will this lead to positive social/political change for women? Think about problems women face in the workplace, in private interactions, and in public spaces. Choose one problem to focus your essay.

Outline

Write your outline below/on the back of this sheet in English and Arabic: